

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W
-----122635 181219Z /75

R 180155Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4265
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJ: WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL PLAN TO OPERATE VESSEL IN
SOUTH CHINA SEA

REF: A) SINGAPORE 2065, B) KUALA LUMPUR 3256, C) BANGKOK 11292,
D) SINGAPORE 1726, E) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 2585, F) 77 KUALA LUMPUR
2362, G) 77 GENEVA 2783

1. WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR HENRY BARBER
HAS REASSURED US DURING VISIT HERE APRIL 18 THAT HIS
GROUP WAS AWARE OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED LAST YEAR
BY WORLD COUNCIL ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP) A D
WOULD AVOID SUCH DIFFICULTIES THROUGH BETTER MANAGE-
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MENT AND MORE LIMITED OBJECTIVES (I.E., NOT SEEKING
TO PICK UP REFUGEES ON HIGH SEAS BUT RATHER TO HELP
REPAIR THEIR BOATS, ETC., SEE REF B), BUT PARA TWO OF
REF A RAISES NEW CONCERNS IN THAT REGARD. HOWEVER,
WELL-INTENDED THE SPONSORS OF THIS VENTURE, WE DO
NOT SEE HOW THEY CAN AVOID PRACTICAL PROBLEMS
ENCOUNTERED SUCH AS BOARDING OF THEIR VESSELS BY

DESPERATE REFUGEES OR EVEN ARMED HIJACKING ATTEMPTS. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT A NUMBER OF THE REFUGEES BRING ARMS WITH THEM FOR PROTECTION, INCLUDING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. HIGH PRESSURE WATER HOSES MIGHT NOT EFFECTIVELY DETER REFUGEES FROM BOARDING A RELIEF VESSEL. MOREOVER, CONSIDERATION OF SUCH MEASURES TO FORCIBLY PREVENT REFUGEES FROM BOARDING THE RELIEF VESSEL RAISES QUESTIONS ANEW REGARDING HOW CAREFULLY THE WHOLE PROJECT HAS BEEN THOUGHT OUT.

2. WE RECALL THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS CASUED BY FIRST YEAR'S WRCP SPONSORED "ROLAND" AND "LEAP DAL" ADVENTURES. ALTHOUGH SUCH EFFORTS MAY HAVE THE POSITIVE SIDE OF PUBLICIZING AND DRAMATIZING THE REFUGEES' PLIGHT, RECENT REPORTING DEMONSTRATES THAT MARINERS CONTINUE TO FACE PROBLEMS IN OFFLOADING REFUGEES PICKED UP AT SEA. ADDITIONALLY, THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A VESSEL MIGHT SERVE AS A MAGNET TO DRAW ALREADY LANDED REFUGEES BACK TO SEA, THEREBY WREAKING HAVOC ON THE FIRST ASYLUM PRINCIPLE, AS WAS THE CASE OF THE "ROLAND" AND THE "LEAP DAL".

3. WHILE WE FIND THE INTENTIONS OF THE WORLD VISION GROUP LAUDABLE AND DO NOT SEEK TO DAMPEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR HELPING OUT, WE HOPE THERE MAY BE SOME WAY TO DIRECT THEIR ENERGIES TOWARD LESS RISKY ENTERPRISES THAN THIS ONE.

4. FOR SINGAPORE: REF B INADVERTENTLY NOT SENT TO YOU; WE ARE REPEATING IT FOR YOUR INFORMATION. MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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